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Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund

Summary prospectus

12 | 30 | 17

FUND SYMBOLS	CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C	CLASS M	CLASS R	CLASS T	CLASS Y
	PEMMX	PEMBX	PEMZC	PEMAX	PEMLX	Pending	PEMYX

Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund

Before you invest, you may wish to review the fund's prospectus, which contains more information about the fund and its risks. You may obtain the prospectus and other information about the fund, including the statement of additional information (SAI) and most recent reports to shareholders, at no cost by visiting putnam.com/funddocuments, calling 1-800-225-1581, or e-mailing Putnam at funddocuments@putnam.com.

The fund's prospectus and SAI, both dated 12/30/17, are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus.

Goal

Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

Fees and expenses

The following table describes the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. You may qualify for sales charge discounts if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least \$50,000 in Putnam funds. More information about these and other discounts is available from your financial advisor and in *How do I buy fund shares?* beginning on page 14 of the fund's prospectus, in the Appendix to the fund's prospectus, and in *How to buy shares* beginning on page II-1 of the fund's statement of additional information (SAI).

Shareholder fees *(fees paid directly from your investment)*

Share class	Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	Maximum deferred sales charge (load) (as a percentage of original purchase price or redemption proceeds, whichever is lower)
Class A	5.75%	1.00%*
Class B	NONE	5.00%**
Class C	NONE	1.00%***
Class M	3.50%	NONE
Class R	NONE	NONE
Class T	2.50%	NONE
Class Y	NONE	NONE

Annual fund operating expenses

(expenses you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Share class	Management fees [†]	Distribution and service (12b-1) fees	Other expenses	Total annual fund operating expenses	Expense reimbursement [#]	Total annual fund operating expenses after expense reimbursement
Class A	0.93%	0.25%	0.88%	2.06%	(0.43)%	1.63%
Class B	0.93%	1.00%	0.88%	2.81%	(0.43)%	2.38%
Class C	0.93%	1.00%	0.88%	2.81%	(0.43)%	2.38%
Class M	0.93%	0.75%	0.88%	2.56%	(0.43)%	2.13%
Class R	0.93%	0.50%	0.88%	2.31%	(0.43)%	1.88%
Class T	0.93%	0.25%	0.88% ^{<}	2.06%	(0.43)%	1.63%
Class Y	0.93%	N/A	0.88%	1.81%	(0.43)%	1.38%

* Applies only to certain redemptions of shares bought with no initial sales charge.

** This charge is phased out over six years.

*** This charge is eliminated after one year.

† Management fees are subject to a performance adjustment. The fund's base management fee is subject to adjustment, up or down, based on the fund's performance relative to the performance of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND). For the most recent fiscal year, the fund's management fee prior to any performance adjustment was 0.92%.

Reflects Putnam Investment Management, LLC's contractual obligation to limit certain fund expenses through December 30, 2018. This obligation may be modified or discontinued only with approval of the Board of Trustees.

< Other expenses are based on expenses of class A shares for the fund's last fiscal year.

Example

The following hypothetical example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other funds. It assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated and then, except as indicated, redeem all your shares at the end of those periods. It assumes a 5% return on your investment each year and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. Only the first year of each period in the example takes into account the expense reimbursement described above. Your actual costs may be higher or lower.

Share class	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
Class A	\$731	\$1,144	\$1,582	\$2,795
Class B	\$741	\$1,131	\$1,646	\$2,927
Class B (no redemption)	\$241	\$831	\$1,446	\$2,927
Class C	\$341	\$831	\$1,446	\$3,107
Class C (no redemption)	\$241	\$831	\$1,446	\$3,107
Class M	\$558	\$1,079	\$1,626	\$3,113
Class R	\$191	\$680	\$1,196	\$2,613
Class T	\$412	\$839	\$1,292	\$2,547
Class Y	\$140	\$528	\$940	\$2,091

Portfolio turnover

The fund pays transaction-related costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when the fund’s shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or the above example, affect fund performance. The fund’s turnover rate in the most recent fiscal year was 137%.

Investments, risks, and performance

Investments

We invest mainly in common stocks (growth or value stocks or both) of emerging market companies that we believe have favorable investment potential. For example, we may purchase stocks of companies with stock prices that reflect a value lower than that which we place on the company. We may also consider other factors that we believe will cause the stock price to rise. Under normal circumstances, we invest at least 80% of the fund’s net assets in equity securities of emerging market companies. This policy may be changed only after 60 days’ notice to shareholders.

Emerging markets include countries in the MSCI Emerging Market Index or that we consider to be emerging markets based on our evaluation of their level of economic development or the size and experience of their securities markets. We invest significantly in small and midsize companies.

We may consider, among other factors, a company’s valuation, financial strength, growth potential, competitive position in its industry, projected future earnings, cash flows and dividends when deciding whether to buy or sell investments. We may also use derivatives, such as futures, options, certain foreign currency transactions, warrants and swap contracts, for both hedging and non-hedging purposes.

Risks

It is important to understand that you can lose money by investing in the fund.

The value of stocks in the fund’s portfolio may fall or fail to rise over extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, including general financial market conditions, changing market perceptions, changes in government intervention in the financial markets, and factors related to a specific issuer, industry or sector. These and other factors may lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund’s portfolio holdings. From time to time, the fund may invest a significant portion of its assets in companies in one or more related industries or sectors, which would make the fund more vulnerable to adverse developments affecting those industries or sectors.

Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments, and value stocks may fail to rebound. These risks are generally greater for small and midsize companies.

The value of international investments traded in foreign currencies may be adversely impacted by fluctuations in exchange rates. International investments, particularly investments in emerging markets, may carry risks associated with potentially less stable economies or governments (such as the risk of seizure by a foreign government, the imposition of currency or other restrictions, or high levels of inflation or deflation), and may be or become illiquid.

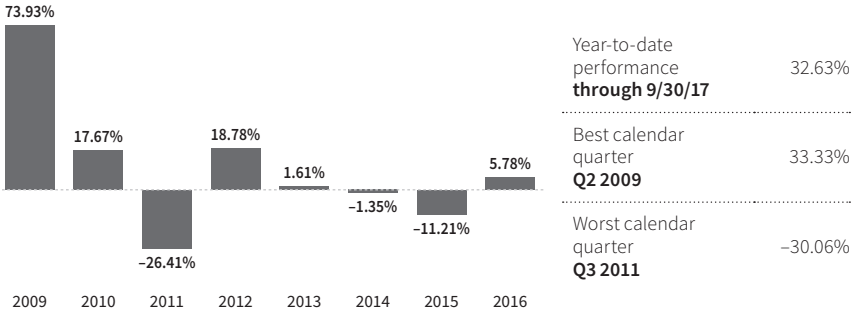
Our use of derivatives may increase the risks of investing in the fund by increasing investment exposure (which may be considered leverage) or, in the case of many over-the-counter instruments, because of the potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions and the potential failure of the other party to the instrument to meet its obligations.

The fund may not achieve its goal, and it is not intended to be a complete investment program. An investment in the fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

Performance

The performance information below gives some indication of the risks associated with an investment in the fund by showing the fund’s performance year to year and over time. The bar chart does not reflect the impact of sales charges. If it did, performance would be lower. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily an indication of future results. Monthly performance figures for the fund are available at putnam.com.

Annual total returns for class A shares before sales charges



Average annual total returns after sales charges

(for periods ending 12/31/16)

Share class	1 year	5 years	10 years
Class A before taxes	-0.30%	1.05%	1.09%
Class A after taxes on distributions	-0.43%	1.11%	0.50%
Class A after taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares	0.10%	1.05%	0.96%
Class B before taxes	-0.04%	1.09%	1.08%
Class C before taxes	4.00%	1.49%	1.06%
Class M before taxes	1.53%	1.01%	0.87%
Class R before taxes	5.44%	1.98%	1.55%
Class T before taxes*	3.13%	1.74%	1.51%
Class Y before taxes	6.12%	2.50%	2.08%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND) (no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes other than withholding taxes on reinvested dividends)	11.19%	1.28%	1.84%

* Class T shares were not outstanding during the periods shown. Performance shown for class T shares is derived from the historical performance of class A shares, adjusted for the lower initial sales charge currently applicable to class T shares.

After-tax returns reflect the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns are shown for class A shares only and will vary for other classes. These after-tax returns do not apply if you hold your fund shares through a 401(k) plan, an IRA, or another tax-advantaged arrangement.

Class B share performance reflects conversion to class A shares after eight years.

Your fund's management

Investment advisor

Putnam Investment Management, LLC

Portfolio manager

Daniel Graña

Portfolio Manager, portfolio manager of the fund since 2008

Sub-advisors

Putnam Investments Limited*

The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC*

* Though the investment advisor has retained the services of both Putnam Investments Limited (PIL) and The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC (PAC), PIL and PAC do not currently manage any assets of the fund.

Purchase and sale of fund shares

You can open an account, purchase and/or sell fund shares, or exchange them for shares of another Putnam fund by contacting your financial advisor or by calling Putnam Investor Services at 1-800-225-1581. Purchases for class B shares are closed

to new and existing investors except by exchange from class B shares of another Putnam fund or through dividend and/or capital gains reinvestment.

When opening an account, you must complete and mail a Putnam account application, along with a check made payable to the fund, to: Putnam Investor Services, P.O. Box 8383, Boston, MA 02266-8383. The minimum initial investment of \$500 is currently waived, although Putnam reserves the right to reject initial investments under \$500 at its discretion. There is no minimum for subsequent investments.

You can sell your shares back to the fund or exchange them for shares of another Putnam fund any day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open. Shares may be sold or exchanged by mail, by phone, or online at putnam.com. Some restrictions may apply.

Tax information

The fund's distributions will be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains unless you hold the shares through a tax-advantaged arrangement, in which case you will generally be taxed only upon withdrawal of monies from the arrangement.

Financial intermediary compensation

If you purchase the fund through a broker/dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank or financial advisor), the fund and its related companies may pay that intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. Please bear in mind that these payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker/dealer or other intermediary to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your advisor or visit your advisor's website for more information.

Information about the Summary Prospectus, Prospectus, and SAI

The summary prospectus, prospectus, and SAI for a fund provide information concerning the fund. The summary prospectus, prospectus, and SAI are updated at least annually and any information provided in a summary prospectus, prospectus, or SAI can be changed without a shareholder vote unless specifically stated otherwise. The summary prospectus, prospectus, and the SAI are not contracts between the fund and its shareholders and do not give rise to any contractual rights or obligations or any shareholder rights other than any rights conferred explicitly by federal or state securities laws that may not be waived.

Additional information, including current performance, is available at putnam.com/funddocuments, by calling 1-800-225-1581, or by e-mailing Putnam at funddocuments@putnam.com.

Class T shares of the fund
are not currently available
for purchase.

